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ADOA INFORMATION SECURITY

MANAGING OUR INFORMATION SAFEGUARDS

Celebrate!

Your independence from Viruses, Scams and Spam!



What many of us forget, is our own contribution to the spreading of viruses, hoaxes, scams, and spam via email.

It happens millions of times, everyday—someone receives a cute, funny, inspirational, gossipy, seemingly newsworthy or inside information-esque email and is inspired to share it with everyone in their address book by forwarding it along. Seems innocent enough, right?

More often than not, the original sender of those messages are either cyber-criminals and/or spammers. Often those emails carry embedded links to malware or viruses or scams designed to lure unsuspecting people into money schemes. Even when there are no links or embedded items, messages are forwarded on and on until they eventually get back to the bad guys—containing the hundreds and even thousands of email addresses the message reached. Those addresses are then used to create lists of more potential victims for the next scam or spam messaging campaign.

So how do you break free from this cycle and declare your independence? It's easy—NEVER forward these types of messages again. And when someone forwards one to you, simply reply to the sender (if you know him or her) and say something along the lines of: "Hi! While I enjoy hearing from you and appreciate the thought, I must ask you to discontinue forwarding messages like this to me as they are often unsafe. How are you doing otherwise?"

As always, keep in mind that computer activities at work should be work-related and any or all of those activities may be monitored.

Be careful and thank you for taking the time to be security aware!

For more information on current cyber scams and tips to avoid them, please visit the FBI at: <http://www.fbi.gov/cyberinvest/escams.htm>

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